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Comment on the Budget

Submitted on Mon, 01/22/2024 - 11:23

Contact Info

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Comments

Comments

Hello. Having read through the 2024 budget submission (likely one of a few citizens who looked at the whole thing), there are a wide variety of needs identified with specific and some not or simply poorly defined. As a citizen of the city for almost 8 years I really do think we need to look at putting a basic needs budget into place that will keep up with the increased costs only. With the current economic situation the country is in, we have all had to cut back and re-prioritize our spending the meet our current needs. Things that I saw in the budget like paving of parking lots (fire hall # 2) and some trails around the city should be items struck from the list of needs. We need to focus on basic road maintenance before dealing with items such as this. I also costs associated with the fire department and while I am sure there is a need, I would say that the city needs to make a decision on whether we will continue to attend all the medical calls in the city. This decision in my mind would have a significant affect on staff needs and the requirement for further training staff. I also the ask for more police officers and again I agree there is a need, This one seems bizarre as from what I can see the RCMP ranks have never been at full compliment, so increasing the number again seems fruitless to me. Perhaps a question for the superintendent. I also saw in the budget document references to studies done in 2017 for various playgrounds and other rec equipment (chiller system at Kopar arena). I would suggest the replacement of the playground equipment is a low/no priority due

to the lack of use other than at Lheidli T'enneh Park. Careful consideration does need to be given to what we are going to do with Kopar arena as well. The Chiller system does need to be fixed/replaced as no plan has been approved for new arena. Hence the timeline for a new arena up and running is at least 5 years in the making.

Overall, I think it is fiscally prudent to look at cuts on budget. The items are numerous and some have significant price tags. a 5% cut across the budget is not unreasonable. On this we were to keep the bare bones ask of a 6.25% increase, this would allow for additional funds to cover other priorities.

Thanks.

Dave